

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01

CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-10

JUSE-00 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01

PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 FEA-01 AF-06 ARA-06

EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1697

S E C R E T GENEVA 2148

FROM USDEL LOS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: MILITARY EXCEPTION TO COMPULSORY DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

REF: (A) NSC-U/DM-109B

1. RECOMMENDATION ON PAGE 121 OF REFERENCE (A), INCLUDING FOOTNOTE, HAS GIVEN RISE TO QUESTION IN RESPECT OF COMPULSORY SETTLEMENT OF THOSE DISPUTES INVOLVING THE USE OF VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT ENTITLED TO SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY IN ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES, E.G., POLLUTION AND FISHERIES.

2. RESULT OF LITERAL READING OF BROAD LANGUAGE OF PAGE 121 OF REFERENCE (A), UNINTENDED BY DRAFTERS, WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH US OBJECTIVE,
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IN INSTRUCTIONS REFERENCE (A), OF COMPULSORY

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT WITH RESPECT TO ECONOMIC ZONE AND COASTAL STATE ENFORCEMENT RIGHTS, INCLUDING ANY POLLUTION ENFORCEMENT RIGHTS, SINCE SUCH ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES COULD BE VIEWED AS COMING WITHIN EXCEPTION FOR QUOTE MILITARY ACTIVITIES UNQUOTE OR, MORE SO, QUOTE WARSHIPS OR OTHER PUBLIC VESSELS OR AIRCRAFT ENTITLED TO SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY UNQUOTE AND WOULD THUS NOT BE SUBJECT TO COMPULSORY DISPUTE SETTLEMENT. OUR VERY ABILITY TO REACH AN ACCOMMODATION ON COASTAL STATE RIGHTS THAT PROTECTS OUR COMMERCIAL SHIPS S BASED ON THE NEED FOR DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROTECTION AGAINST UNILATERAL AND UNREASONABLY BROAD COASTAL STATE INTERPRETATION OF ITS REGULATORY AND ENFORCEMENT RIGHTS.

3. UNLESS ADVISED TO THE CONTRARY BY THE DEPARTMENT, DELEGATION WILL INTERPRET REFERENCE (A) AS NOT REPEAT NOT DIRECTING EXTENSION OF MILITARY EXCEPTION TO INCLUDE DISPUTES ABOUT EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION TO ENFORCE COASTAL STATE RIGHTS MERELY ON THE GROUND THAT A VESSEL OR AIRCRAFT ENTITLED TO SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY WAS INVOLVED IN AN ARREST OF A MERCHANT SHIP OR SIMILAR LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTITITES ASSOCIATED WITH THE DISPUTE. E.G., COMPULSORY DISPUTE SETTLEMENT WOULD APPLY TO AN INCIDENT PRECIPITATED BY AN ARREST OF A MERCHANT VESSEL BY A VESSEL OR AIRCRAFT ENTITLED TO SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY. HOWEVER, AN INCIDENT BETWEEN A FOREIGN MILITARY VESSEL AND A COASTAL STATE MILITARY VESSEL RESULTING FROM AN ATTEMPTED ARREST OF A MERCHANT SHIP OF THE FOREIGN STATE WOULD BE CONSTRUED TO BE QUOTE MILITARY ACTIVITIES UNQUOTE AND NOT SUBJECT TO COMPULSORY DISPUTE SETTLEMENT. DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, DISPUTES, FISHERIES, POLLUTION, RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA02148
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750106-0133
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750315/aaaaamss.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NSC-U/DM-109B
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <18 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY EXCEPTION TO COMPULSORY DISPUTE SETTLEMENT
TAGS: PLOS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006